



www.homereportscotland.gov.uk Home Report: 8 weeks to go

The way that homes are bought and sold in Scotland is changing from 1 December 2008. This bulletin is for professionals involved in the house buying and selling process. This edition focuses on some of the key issues for implementation.

Latest news

Introduction of the Home Report on 1 December – On 16 September, the Minister for Communities and Sport, Stewart Maxwell MSP signed a [Commencement Order](#) that brings the Home Report legislation into effect for homes marketed from 1 December 2008. Homes already on the market before 1 December do not require a Home Report.

Mr Maxwell said 'I am delighted to sign the Order that will bring detailed information on the condition, energy efficiency and value of houses to the transaction process for homes in Scotland. Buying a home is the biggest financial decision most of us ever make. The Home Report will allow sellers to make informed marketing decisions in what is currently a buyer's market and it will allow buyers to make more informed decisions on whether, and how much, to offer. In the current housing market, and with unremitting fuel price rises, it is more important than ever that house-buyers in Scotland have reliable information about the condition, energy efficiency and value of a house before they make an offer to buy..'

Home Report marketing materials for selling agents

Your office should have received a package of marketing materials on the Home Report. This package includes a leaflet covering the basics of Home Reports by way of explanation for your buying and selling clients and a window poster for display at your premises. You will also be able to download artwork from the Home Report website to help you to produce your own branded version.

Home Report training DVD – 'Preparing for implementation'

Included with the package of Home Report marketing materials, there will be a training DVD for property professionals to use with their staff. The DVD includes an introductory message from the Minister for Communities and Sport, a brief introduction to the Home Report from the presenter, Jenny Farish and a short question and answer session on enforcement measures with David Thomson, the Chairman of the Society of Chief Officers of Trading Standards in Scotland.

The main content of the DVD involves a panel discussion involving a number of representatives from the various professions involved. Presenter Jenny Farish asks the questions to Jim Gibson, representing the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Ross McKay representing the Law Society of Scotland, Crawford McCaughie, Chairman of the Council of Mortgage Lenders in Scotland and Alison Hatrick representing the National Association of Estate Agents. The discussion examines a range of issues, including mortgage valuation reports, the shelf life of the Home Report, the surveyor's liability to the home buyer and the issues that selling agents can usefully consider to position their businesses in readiness for the introduction of the Home Report on 1 December. Our thanks to all the participants for their excellent contributions.

Introduction of Energy Performance Certificates for marketed homes

The Building Standards Division of the Scottish Government will make guidance available in October on the introduction of Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) from 4 January 2009 for all types of buildings, including marketed homes.

The Home Report logo

Guidance has been published on the [Home Report website](#) on the use of the Scottish Government's Home Report 'four-square' logo. As the logo is Scottish Government property, it cannot be used on commercial products. Its use is restricted to the Scottish Government's own use and any joint work or sponsored events involving the Scottish Government. The four-square logo and the Scottish Government 'Saltire' logo must not be used on any commercially available Home Report documents.

Home Report publicity campaign

The Scottish Government's Home Report publicity and media campaign will get underway in mid-October. The campaign is designed to reach a primary audience of people currently interested in buying or selling homes in Scotland using property websites and property press, along with editorials and 'advertorials' in the national and local press. The campaign will also raise awareness amongst the public more generally, with, for example radio and billboard adverts, and will conclude in February 2009.

Home Report training programme

Training for surveyors delivered by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, for solicitors delivered by the Law Society of Scotland and for estate agents delivered by the National Association of Estate Agents are now underway. The Council of Mortgage Lenders is hosting a Home Report Conference on 23 October in, Edinburgh. It's not too late to book a place - more details on all these events are available on the Home Report website [here](#).

